

FLOOR COMMITTEE 5

Theology and Church Relations

Chairman and Amendment Guide - Portrait Print-Friendly Edition

KINGDOM OVER CASTLE | MISSIONAL | LOW CONTROL, HIGH ACCOUNTABILITY

Purpose: Help a delegate address the chairman, huddle with the delegation, create or refine amendment language, and speak to Floor Committee 5 resolutions with clear confession, pastoral care, local usefulness, and accountable mission.

Source frame: Today's Business, Issue 1, pages 95-110. These are proposed resolutions, not final convention action. Check the latest daily issue before moving anything.

One-sentence test

Does this amendment preserve clear Lutheran doctrine while helping congregations, pastors, partner churches, and families apply that doctrine faithfully, pastorally, and missionally?

Five capitals	Delegate question
Spiritual	Does it strengthen Word, Sacrament, confession, catechesis, pastoral care, repentance, and absolution?
Relational	Does it build trust among pastors, congregations, partner churches, families, and local leaders?
Physical	Does it help real places where ministry happens: altars, pulpits, classrooms, hospitals, homes, mission fields?
Intellectual	Does it give clear doctrine, usable teaching, theological study, bioethics, and practical guidance?
Financial	Does it steward costs, publications, travel, support, and resources transparently?

Christ frame

Doctrine is not a castle wall for institutional fear. Doctrine is a trellis for Gospel life. Clear confession serves Christ, His gifts, His people, and His mission.

HOW TO ADDRESS THE CHAIRMAN

Basic floor language

- Rise or enter the queue according to the standing rules.
- When recognized: "Mr. Chairman, Robert Bailey, Texas District, pastoral delegate."
- State the action first, then the reason briefly.
- Keep remarks about the resolution, not motives of people.

Motion phrases

- "Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 5-__ by..."
- "I speak in favor of the amendment because..."
- "I ask the floor committee whether this concern is already addressed..."
- "I request permission to withdraw or revise my amendment."

DELEGATION HUDDLE SCRIPT

Use this before going to the mic:

- What problem are we trying to solve?
- Is the amendment narrow and germane?
- Does it clarify doctrine or improve pastoral use?
- Does it release spiritual, relational, physical, intellectual, or financial capital for Gospel witness?
- Does it create accountability without unnecessary control?
- Could this be handled by asking the floor committee a question instead of moving an amendment?

AMENDMENT WORKFLOW

Step	What to do	Example phrase
1. Identify	Name the exact resolve or location.	"In the second Resolved..."
2. Draft	Use clean insert, strike, or substitute language.	"Insert after the words..."
3. Explain	One doctrine point and one practical point.	"This protects doctrine and helps pastors..."
4. Huddle	Ask whether the delegation agrees it is worth floor time.	"Is this necessary, or only nice?"
5. Move	Address the chairman and state the amendment.	"Mr. Chairman, I move to amend..."
6. Speak	Support the amendment briefly and fraternally.	"This keeps low control with high accountability..."

COMMITTEE 5 DASHBOARD

Priority	Resolution	Why it matters
Highest	5-05 Communion exceptions	Protect closed Communion and pastoral care without laxity or fear-driven legalism.
Highest	5-09 Public Scripture reading	Clarify office, preaching, participation, local practice, and conscience boundaries.
High	5-11 IVF	Join life confession to tender care for infertility, grief, and past decisions.
High	5-04 Partner churches	Create truthful and charitable accountability with timelines and reporting.
High	5-08 Men and women	Teach clearly while honoring women's faithful service and vocation.
High	5-12 Created Male and Female	Move recommendations into pastoral tools for congregations, schools, and families.

MASTER AMENDMENT PARAGRAPH

Adapt this for resolutions where implementation is vague or where local usefulness needs to be named:

Resolved, That implementation of this resolution include clear teaching resources for pastors, congregations, schools, and families; respect the responsibilities of pastors and congregations in local contexts; preserve doctrinal accountability according to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and provide a brief report before the 2029 convention describing resources created, guidance provided, relationships strengthened, five capitals stewarded, and lessons learned.

Use when:

- The resolution asks for guidance but does not say what kind.
- A bylaw or process change needs public clarity.
- A doctrinal resolution needs local teaching or pastoral-care tools.
- A thanksgiving resolution should become ongoing mission partnership.

RESOLUTION-BY-RESOLUTION AMENDMENT CARDS

Each card gives a narrow amendment idea, why it helps, a five-capitals read, a microphone phrase, and one huddle question.

5-01 - Recognize Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Christian Church of Bolivia

Priority: Low | Castle risk: Thanksgiving and fellowship recognition could stop at formal recognition without ongoing partnership.

Amendment idea

Add a final resolve encouraging ongoing mutual prayer, theological education, missionary partnership, pastoral exchange where appropriate, and communication for shared confession and Gospel witness.

Why this helps

Turns fellowship recognition into active churchly relationship, not a handshake left on the shelf.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Mutual prayer, shared confession, altar and pulpit fellowship
Relational	Church-body visits, pastoral relationships, missionary connections
Physical	Support for congregational and mission sites
Intellectual	Theological education and translated resources
Financial	Mission support, scholarships, resource sharing

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding a final resolve encouraging ongoing mutual prayer, theological education, missionary partnership, and communication after recognition of fellowship.

Delegation huddle question

Does this help fellowship become living partnership rather than only formal recognition?

5-02 - Support Fellowship Recognition with Lutheran Mission-Australia

Priority: Low | Castle risk: Timing and process could be unclear while the partner body completes its formative churchwide process.

Amendment idea

Add language encouraging continued theological conversation, mutual prayer, and communication as Lutheran Mission-Australia completes its formative process.

Why this helps

Respects another church body while preserving clear doctrine and trustworthy process.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Prayer and shared confession
Relational	Communication during formative process
Physical	Possible future mission collaboration
Intellectual	Theological dialogue and doctrinal clarity
Financial	Future support where appropriate and transparent

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by encouraging continued theological conversation, mutual prayer, and communication as Lutheran Mission-Australia completes its formative churchwide process.

Delegation huddle question

Does this respect their process while keeping our fellowship recognition clear?

5-03 - Give Thanks for the Mission Province in Sweden

Priority: Low | Castle risk: A thanksgiving item may remain symbolic without strengthening isolated confessors.

Amendment idea

Add encouragement for continued prayer, theological encouragement, and appropriate communication with the Mission Province and other faithful Lutherans in Nordic contexts.

Why this helps

Thanksgiving should strengthen brothers and sisters who face isolation and opposition.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Prayer for faithful pastors and congregations
Relational	Connections with isolated confessional Lutherans
Physical	Support gatherings, publications, or visits where appropriate
Intellectual	Share theological resources
Financial	Mission or education support if invited and appropriate

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding encouragement for continued prayer, theological encouragement, and appropriate communication with confessional Lutherans in Nordic contexts.

Delegation huddle question

Does this turn thanks into actual fraternal encouragement?

5-04 - Address Concerns with Partner Churches

Priority: High | Castle risk: Concerns can be handled by rumor, vague reporting, or public heat without fraternal process.

Amendment idea

Add a process marked by clear doctrine, fraternal admonition, careful listening, written summaries of issues discussed, appropriate timelines for response, prayer, and public reporting that preserves truth, charity, and trust.

Why this helps

Keeps partner-church accountability truthful, charitable, and visible without turning concern into public shaming.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Prayer, admonition, repentance, doctrinal clarity
Relational	Fraternal conversation with partner leaders
Physical	Regional meetings, visits, dialogue settings
Intellectual	CTCR studies and written issue summaries
Financial	Responsible use of travel and dialogue funds

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding language for clear doctrine, fraternal admonition, careful listening, written summaries, response timelines, prayer, and public reporting that preserves truth, charity, and trust.

Delegation huddle question

Does this give accountability without turning partner relations into ecclesiastical dodgeball?

5-05 - Open Communion and Pastoral Exceptions in Extraordinary Circumstances

Priority: Highest | Castle risk: Could drift toward open Communion or, in the other ditch, create fear-driven legalism for extraordinary pastoral care.

Amendment idea

Clarify that guidance should distinguish extraordinary pastoral care from open Communion, affirm the ordinary practice of closed Communion, provide practical teaching for congregations and visitors, and help pastors avoid both laxity and fear-driven legalism.

Why this helps

Protects faithful doctrine of the Supper while helping pastors shepherd real people in hospitals, military contexts, deathbeds, and unusual cases.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Faithful administration of the Lord's Supper
Relational	Pastor-member care and visitor conversations
Physical	Hospital rooms, military settings, nursing homes
Intellectual	Teaching on closed Communion and exceptions
Financial	Low-cost guides, bulletin inserts, training tools

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by clarifying that guidance distinguish extraordinary pastoral care from open Communion, affirm closed Communion, and help pastors avoid both laxity and fear-driven legalism.

Delegation huddle question

Does this protect closed Communion and pastoral care at the same time?

5-06 - Amend Bylaw 3.9.5.2.2(b) for CTCR Advisory Opinions

Priority: Medium | Castle risk: A bylaw change may be technically correct but practically unclear to those seeking guidance.

Amendment idea

Ask the CTCR to provide clear public guidance explaining who may request advisory opinions, what questions are appropriate, what information is required, expected timelines where possible, and how confidentiality and publication will be handled.

Why this helps

Makes the process usable and transparent instead of mysterious.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Doctrinal guidance for faithful practice
Relational	Trust between pastors, congregations, and CTCR
Physical	Accessible online request forms or guidance pages
Intellectual	Clarified advisory process
Financial	Avoid wasted time and confusion

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by asking the CTCR to provide clear public guidance on advisory-opinion requests, appropriate questions, needed information, timelines, confidentiality, and publication.

Delegation huddle question

Would an ordinary pastor or congregation know how to use this process?

5-07 - Refer Sister Church Nomenclature Change to Commission on Handbook

Priority: Medium | Castle risk: Changing terminology may confuse partner relationships or legal documents if done without consultation.

Amendment idea

Ask the Commission on Handbook to consult with the President of Synod, CTCR, church relations staff, partner church leaders where appropriate, and legal counsel before recommending terminology changes.

Why this helps

Keeps theological language, legal usage, and partner relationships aligned.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Clear language around fellowship
Relational	Consult partner churches before changing terms
Physical	Update official documents carefully
Intellectual	Theological and legal review
Financial	Avoid unnecessary publication and legal costs

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by asking the Commission on Handbook to consult with church relations staff, CTCR, partner church leaders where appropriate, and legal counsel before recommending terminology changes.

Delegation huddle question

Could this term change create confusion for partner churches or documents?

5-08 - Reaffirm the Synod's Positions on Men and Women in the Church

Priority: High | Castle risk: Clear teaching on the Office of the Holy Ministry could be heard as suspicion toward women's faithful service.

Amendment idea

Add that the reaffirmation be taught in a way that upholds the Scriptural teaching concerning the Office of the Holy Ministry while honoring and encouraging the faithful service, teaching, mercy, witness, leadership, and vocational contributions of women.

Why this helps

Keeps doctrinal clarity joined to gratitude and encouragement rather than bunker language.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Teach creation, vocation, office, service, baptismal identity
Relational	Build trust among pastors, women leaders, teachers, families
Physical	Support service in schools, mercy, music, mission
Intellectual	Clear teaching guides avoiding caricature
Financial	Support formation and continuing education for women church workers

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding language that upholds the Scriptural teaching concerning the Office of the Holy Ministry while honoring and encouraging the faithful service and vocational contributions of women throughout the church.

Delegation huddle question

Does this speak clearly without making faithful women feel like a problem to manage?

5-09 - Address the Public Reading of Scripture

Priority: Highest | Castle risk: May bind consciences beyond Scripture and Confessions or blur the Office of the Holy Ministry if distinctions are unclear.

Amendment idea

Ask that guidance distinguish the Office of the Holy Ministry, public preaching of the Gospel, congregational participation in the Divine Service, and local practices carried out under pastoral supervision; avoid condemning faithful congregations beyond Scripture and the Confessions.

Why this helps

Protects doctrine and pastoral clarity without overreach.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Reverent hearing of Scripture in worship
Relational	Pastoral teaching that avoids accusation and confusion
Physical	Local Divine Service practice
Intellectual	Clear distinctions between reading, preaching, office, and participation
Financial	Simple teaching resources, not costly mandates

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by asking that guidance distinguish the Office of the Holy Ministry, preaching, congregational participation, and local practices under pastoral supervision, while avoiding condemnation beyond Scripture and the Confessions.

Delegation huddle question

Does this protect the pastoral office without binding consciences too tightly?

5-10 - Request CTCR Report on Human Organ Donation and Transplantation

Priority: Medium | Castle risk: A technical report may not help families facing hospital decisions, grief, and end-of-life care.

Amendment idea

Ask the CTCR report to include pastoral guidance on bodily integrity, death, consent, donation after death, living donation, commercialization, recipient care, donor-family care, and Christian hope in the resurrection of the body.

Why this helps

Makes the study usable in hospital rooms and family conversations.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Resurrection hope and prayer with families
Relational	Donor family and recipient care
Physical	Hospitals, clinics, end-of-life settings
Intellectual	Bioethical study and pastoral guidance
Financial	Avoid exploitation or commercialization concerns

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by asking the CTCR report to include pastoral guidance on bodily integrity, death, consent, living donation, donation after death, commercialization, donor-family care, recipient care, and resurrection hope.

Delegation huddle question

Will this help pastors and families when decisions are urgent and painful?

5-11 - Reaffirm Sanctity of Human Life Regarding In Vitro Fertilization

Priority: High | Castle risk: Clear life teaching could land harshly on couples facing infertility, miscarriage, or past decisions made without full understanding.

Amendment idea

Encourage compassionate pastoral care for couples experiencing infertility, grief, miscarriage, childlessness, embryo-related ethical burdens, or past decisions made without full understanding, proclaiming the sanctity of life and the forgiveness, mercy, and hope found in Christ.

Why this helps

Joins strong life confession to tender pastoral care.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Pastoral care, confession, absolution, life teaching
Relational	Support for infertility, miscarriage, childlessness
Physical	Counseling spaces and medical referral lists
Intellectual	Bioethical guidance on IVF and embryos
Financial	Support for counseling, adoption, ethical consultation

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding compassionate pastoral care for couples facing infertility, miscarriage, childlessness, embryo-related ethical burdens, or past decisions made without full understanding.

Delegation huddle question

Does this teach the truth without crushing already wounded consciences?

5-12 - Conclude Created Male and Female Task Force and Receive Recommendations

Priority: High | Castle risk: Recommendations may remain documents unless congregations, schools, parents, and youth receive practical pastoral tools.

Amendment idea

Add that implementation include practical pastoral resources for congregations, schools, parents, youth, church workers, and families, including guidance for repentance, care, catechesis, confidentiality, referral to qualified professionals where needed, and faithful accompaniment.

Why this helps

Helps doctrine become pastoral care for real people and families under cultural pressure.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Catechesis on creation, body, repentance, forgiveness
Relational	Parent support, youth care, pastoral accompaniment
Physical	School and church policies, safe pastoral meeting spaces
Intellectual	Practical guidance for congregations and schools
Financial	Counseling support and training resources

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding practical pastoral resources for congregations, schools, parents, youth, workers, and families, including catechesis, confidentiality, referral guidance, and faithful care.

Delegation huddle question

Will this help local pastors, parents, and schools care for actual people?

5-13 - Give Thanks for 1700th Anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea

Priority: Low | Castle risk: A good historical celebration may not become local catechesis.

Amendment idea

Encourage congregations, schools, campus ministries, and homes to use the anniversary to teach the Nicene Creed, the Holy Trinity, the person and work of Christ, and the connection between right confession and Gospel comfort.

Why this helps

Turns historical thanksgiving into Christ-centered teaching for the next generation.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Teach the Creed, Trinity, Christology, Gospel comfort
Relational	Family and intergenerational catechesis
Physical	Creed posters, chapel series, study materials
Intellectual	Historical and doctrinal teaching resources
Financial	Low-cost catechetical tools

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by encouraging congregations, schools, campus ministries, and homes to use the anniversary of Nicaea for catechesis in the Creed, the Trinity, Christology, and Gospel comfort.

Delegation huddle question

Does this help the Creed move from history page to household and pew?

5-14 - Respectfully Decline Overtures

Priority: Medium | Castle risk: Declining inflammatory overtures may leave people unsure how doctrinal concerns should be handled properly.

Amendment idea

Add encouragement to use fraternal conversation, careful theological review, and established doctrinal and ecclesiastical processes whenever concerns arise about organizations, publications, teaching, or ministry practices.

Why this helps

Declines overreach while pointing concerns into truthful, due-process, Eighth Commandment paths.

Five capitals examples

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Eighth Commandment, repentance, doctrinal fidelity
Relational	Fraternal conversation before public accusation
Physical	Use existing boards, commissions, hearings
Intellectual	Proper doctrinal review and documentation
Financial	Avoid unnecessary conflict costs

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding encouragement to use fraternal conversation, careful theological review, and established doctrinal processes when concerns arise about organizations, publications, teaching, or ministry practices.

Delegation huddle question

Does this decline the overtures while teaching a better way to handle concerns?

CLOSING GOSPEL FRAME

Theology and church relations serve the risen Christ. The Church does not confess clearly so it can win arguments. The Church confesses clearly so sinners may know where Christ is giving Himself: in His Word, at His Table, through His absolution, in His Body, for the life of the world.

Christ is risen indeed, and clear confession should send us into the world with steadier hands, softer hearts, and a stronger Gospel.